

The Need of the Month **COLUMBIA BIBLE COLLEGE LIBRARY**
Bulgaria **COLUMBIA**

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD



The day of resurrection,—
Earth, tell it out abroad,—
The passover of gladness,
The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

—St. John of Damascus
(c. 780 A.D.).

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VOL. XXIX
No. 2

MARCH-APRIL
1948

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for Christian Oneness and Evangelization

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

Our English Brother Rejoices

Hello, America! Is that Uncle Sam speaking? I thought it was. You are well known as CARE, but British folk call you Mister Care. Thank you for the package containing such a grand variety for needy people. Immediately the package was opened (not an easy job), our poetry machine began to work. Here's a bit to encourage you:

Mister Care from over there
Was awful late, I do declare;
But all the goods are finest choice,
And many hearts will now rejoice.

Dear Everybody who loves the Saviour: The poor sufferers in Europe are exceedingly grateful for all your loving self-sacrifice. They have never seen such food in all their lives. One fellow shouted: "It's surely dropped down from Heaven!" Do not let your hands get slack, or your hearts grow cold. Keep up your labour of love, and most of all your PRAYER OF FAITH. Without this our labour will be in vain. We must put Christ first. His Love must be magnified in all our lives — at home and abroad. This was the burning desire of our Comrade, Norman J. Smith. And don't forget Comrade Orson Palmer, who founded the American-European Fellowship on his knees, and gave his life (this I most surely believe) that the love of God should captivate millions in Europe. Shall we not follow in the train of such comrades? Pray for the martyr-spirit to come upon all true believers! The world is being prepared rapidly for judgment. I would repeat this a thousand times, to arouse Uncle Sam to action. CARE means food for the body; the Word of God means food for the soul. Oh, for a Vision to burst upon Europe and America: "And I saw a great white throne . . ." Hold on in faith, beloved friends. God is calling you. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4.27-32).

F. SPENCER JOHNSON.

Eldon House, Croydon, England.

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The Breaking of the Bread

There were many ways in which the Risen Lord might have revealed His identity to His disciples. He might have come to them while they were at prayer, or searching the Scriptures, or listening to a talk by one of their leaders. Luke tells us that He joined Himself quietly to two who were walking to Emmaus, "but their eyes were holden that they should not know him" (24.16). When they entered a house, and shared the evening meal together, recognition came. "He was known of them in the breaking of the bread" (verse 35).

So, often, the requirements of action may invest a truth with reality which no amount of meditation has conferred upon it. The simplest duties of everyday life, and much more the ministry to the world's needs, bring to the individual soul new revelation and new light. Then we learn how truly Christ is everywhere. "Raise the stone and thou shalt find me; cleave the wood, and there am I."

Many of our friends have told us of the spiritual enlargement which their fellowship with us has brought them. One sister, through whose hands hundreds of pounds of food and clothing have passed on their way to the needy, writes of her work: "It has been a blessing to me." With no selfish aim, thinking of others and not of themselves, they yet have proved the truth of these lines: "Who gives himself with his gift feeds three: himself, his hungry neighbor, and Me."

These pages present opportunities for you to share, through prayer and giving, with needy brethren in distant lands. This you may do in fullest confidence that your gifts will be wisely and efficiently used. For yourself, there could be no finer way of making sure that the joys of Eastertime will not be transitory, but will remain with you as a permanent possession. "He was known of them in the breaking of the bread."

The Need of the Month — Bulgaria

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings" (Isaiah 52.7).

By the grace of God I shall endeavor to describe the work done from 1928 to 1948 in my beloved country, Bulgaria. READ This land occupies a strategic place in the Balkan peninsula, being the gateway between Asia Minor and Central Europe. It has an area of 110,842 square miles, and a population of about seven million. God has made Bulgaria a paradise, blessed with rich minerals, a pleasant climate, and a peaceful, hard-working people. But this land has gone through age-long struggles to secure and protect its freedom.

During the second World War, the whole outlook of Bulgaria



PAULINA NIKOFF

changed. From a monarchy it has become a republic, having a new constitution and a new political order, and is now rapidly marching toward socialism. Ours is truly an age of wonderful physical and mechanical achievements, but man has made little progress as far as his own soul is concerned. Bulgaria needs the Gospel as never before in its history; to minister here is truly a high responsibility and privilege.

I was born in the city of Kustendil, of Greek Orthodox parents. My father was an orphan, who worked hard as a boy, and had little education. He fell in love with the daughter of one of the richest families in Kustendil, and presently won her hand. My mother was a cultured woman in her time. Her charming personality and lovable disposition made the family life happy. There was, however, one element lacking to make this home a perfect one — my parents were not as yet Christian people.

Several months after I was born, my father was told of the coming of a strange man from the United States of America, whose purpose was to do away with our national Greek Orthodox religion. My father decided to go and hear this man, and, if he really had come with such an idea in his mind, my father planned to kill him. He went — and there he gave his heart to Jesus. This was the happiest night of his life. He was overwhelmed by the matchless grace and love of Calvary; a great miracle took place, and he became a new man in Christ. Much later, after many prayers and meditations, my mother was also saved, and the happiness of our home was now complete.

My parents pledged themselves to God, and dedicated the lives of their eight children to His service. The home altar was established; prayer and Bible-reading were taught us at the knees of our precious father and mother. My father's testimony still stands, that the Bible can educate anybody who craves a true education, since it contains the highest and best literature in the world.

For the sake of better living conditions, we moved to Sofia, the capital. Here I finished my Junior High School education, and afterwards graduated from the Teachers' Training College and taught for six years. I came to see that the greatest need of Bulgaria is not education, but spiritual regeneration. I had some very stirring experiences during the First World War, and these led me to give up the teaching profession, which I loved, and to dedicate my life to my Saviour.

I obtained a scholarship in the Philadelphia School for Christian Workers, came to America, and spent three happy years there, graduating as Director of Religious Education. Then I went to Chicago, for further training in the Moody Bible Institute. To these schools I owe my real preparation for future Christian work among my people. Those years were enriched with many precious friendships. I never shall forget those noble men and women, nor shall God forget to reward them with the heavenly blessings of immortality.

Two months before leaving America, I was in great perplexity. I was ready and eager to go back to Bulgaria and work for the Lord, but where was my support to come from? And then God performed a miracle. Mr. W. H. Hockman was at that time Director of the Missionary Course of the Moody Bible Institute. He wrote a letter to the American-European Fellowship, asking if they, with their interest in Bulgaria, would be in a position to undertake the support of Miss Paulina Dimkova, so that she might return to her own country for definite Christian work.

I was told to call on a certain gentleman in Philadelphia, but the address given me was not correct. Yet even with this wrong address, God led my steps

to the office of Mr. Edward Steele. I met a tall, well-built man, who invited me into his office, and we talked over many things. From this very first visit I learned to respect and love him. Later on, I visited his home, where I became acquainted with his charming wife and his two sons. From this meeting I cherish the sweetest memories of them all.

The day before leaving America, I was made exceedingly happy by receiving a special delivery letter from Mr. Steele. It contained the joyful news that he and his wife were going to support me in my work in Bulgaria. Such a thought had never come into my mind, and it was a wonderful proof of God's faithfulness.

Two years after my return to Bulgaria, Mr. Steele died, on September 25, 1930. In his death, Bulgaria suffered a great loss. He was deeply imbued with the missionary spirit, and his heart went out in tender and Christ-like compassion to the multitudes of Bulgaria who needed to hear the blessed Gospel. Years have passed since his death, but his charming personality, character, life, deeds and missionary spirit will be remembered for ever.

After the home-going of Brother Steele, his faithful wife, Mrs. Roberta Rue Steele, has continued the work, up to the present time. ~~Her sacrificial~~ efforts and generous gifts have helped Bulgaria in its quest for new light. Here my pen quivers. Neither tongue nor pen can express my deep gratitude to this truly consecrated woman. May God abundantly bless and reward her with the richest heavenly blessings of mind and spirit in Jesus Christ.

In this way I first came into contact with the friends of my beloved missionary board, The American-European Fellowship. They accepted me as their worker in Bulgaria, and under their protection I have been working happily for the past twenty years. Without God's will, Mrs. Steele's support, and the help of the Board, I could not have had the high privilege of working for the Master. My deepest gratitude is due to them all.

Now I shall attempt to present the different phases of my work in brief outline, under separate headings.

(1) Sunday-School Work.—The Bulgarian people have always believed in cultivating the intellect and will of the child, but very little has been done for centuries in cultivating the soul, from which comes the more abundant life. Millions of children in our country have never been privileged to hear the Gospel, to attend a Sunday-School, or read Christian literature. Therefore, my first imperative duty has been to work among these little ones, of whom Jesus said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, . . . for of such is the kingdom of God."

My great attempt has been to introduce Sunday-School work into the Greek Orthodox Church. I started my first Sunday-School in my own home. Every Sunday I had to remove the furniture from one of the rooms, and arrange it for the school. After the session, the furniture was put back. Of course we suffered much persecution from the Greek Orthodox Church, and the teachers' organization in the public schools. The children were forbidden by the teachers to come to us, or to take part in our sessions. If they disobeyed, they would not receive their year's certificate, and would not be admitted to the school next year. The restrictions were rigid. But praise be to God, year after year the work grew, in spite of all difficulties.

Hundreds of children have been nourished on the living Word of God. Beautiful Christmas and Easter entertainments have been given in different

halls in the city of Sofia, year after year. We shall never forget the entertainments given to the sick children in the State Hospital. The little patients listened with joy to the Sunday-School visitors, and at the end received gifts, such as chocolate eggs, candies and cookies.

Years went by, and as a recognition of our useful work, the Minister of Education, for the first time in our history, allowed us to have our Sunday-School sessions in the nearest public grammar school. There, in four big schoolrooms, we had our kindergarten, primary, junior and high school departments. About five hundred children and young people gathered. Public school teachers from all over the city came to listen to our Sunday-School lessons. The influence which this school has exerted over the children and young people is very great.

Our Protestant church in Sofia is the leading and the largest one in Bulgaria, and has the best-organized Sunday-School. In our adult department we have four classes: two for married women, one for men, and one large department for high school and college students. In the children's department we have a Kindergarten, primary grades, and junior and intermediate classes. The Christmas and Easter entertainments are always well-prepared and successful. On these occasions the church is packed with people, and many of them have found peace in Christ.

I have a large Bible class consisting of young married women and older ladies, many of whom are now believers. Also, three years ago I was elected superintendent of the entire Sunday-School. In all of our activities, we aim to impart sound Biblical knowledge. Our minister, in his annual report to the church members for 1947, spoke very highly of the Sunday-School work and expressed his deepest gratitude for it. At our last social evening, one of our members, a medical student, got up and said that his whole religious outlook had been formulated in this Sunday-School.

The greatest need of the moment in Bulgaria is the Bread of Life. The new political order has banished all religious education from the school program. Ungodliness and sin are rife everywhere. Atheistic literature floods the market. In view of these conditions, the need for Sunday-School training is more imperative than ever before.

(2) Young People's Work.—A great deal of my Christian work during these twenty years has been done among the young people outside of my church. Hundreds of them have passed through our young people's meetings in our community in Sofia. Today they are grown-up men and women, many of them standing firm for the faith. A special work has been done among the young peasant girls who come to the city to work as servants. Many of them have been taught to read and write; they have been given the Gospel, and have been protected from the evils of the city life.

And what shall I say of the work done among the young people in our own church? I have a special love for them. As president of the Young People's Society, I have tried to understand them and lead them with tact and love into the faith. Today our young people are taking a lively part in the work of the church. It is not easy to be a young man or woman in this godless, revolutionary and materialistic time, living in a land where most drastic changes are taking place, and yet to stand firm for your faith in the Saviour. But, thank God, once He has won them, no one will be able to pluck them out of His hand.

(3) *Work Among Women.*—The Church has the problem of making women realize their great responsibility for the spiritual welfare of mankind. The field of work which has always been open before them is most wide and fruitful. If women can be won for Christ, it will be far easier to Christianize the rest of the people.

We have worked among the Greek Orthodox women, holding our meetings in different homes in two districts of our city, Lozenets and Krasno Selo. The women have come from great distances, in all kinds of weather. Almost every week someone would say to me, "I would not give up these meetings for anything." Some did not know how to read and write, but I taught them, and they became students of the Bible. One of the women accepted Christ with all her heart, and went home and burned her ikonostasis and all of her ikons which she had previously worshipped and kissed many times a day.

Still more has been done among the women of the Protestant churches. In the earlier years of my work, I succeeded in re-establishing the Women's Missionary Union in Bulgaria. Its aims were to spread the Bible and Christian literature, to work for the Christian enlightenment of women in Bulgaria, and to support Bible-women as workers wherever there is need to do so. The Union held annual conventions, and women from all over the country came as delegates.

The missionary society in my own church in Sofia has been very helpful in the life and work of the church. Once a week we hold different meetings, such as mothers', missionary, prayer-meetings, and socials. I have served as vice-president and president at various times.

(4) *The Women's Christian Temperance Union.*—The Christian Temperance movement has stood for the protection of the home against three social evils—war, impurity and alcohol. It has stood for Christian moral education, has always recognized women's equality with men in legal matters, and has upheld the highest standards of Christian womanhood.

Temperance work was introduced into Bulgaria eighty years ago by American missionaries, and has been developed by the Protestant churches. Today all the various temperance unions are united in one National Temperance Movement, which is doing wonderful work throughout Bulgaria. I have the privilege of being a member of the governing body of that movement, and only recently I was elected a member of its Supreme Administrative Council.

God in His providence made it possible for me to attend the World Women's Christian Temperance Union convention in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1934, and also the convention in Washington, D. C., in 1937, where I was a delegate from Bulgaria. At these conventions my Christian Temperance outlook was broadened, my mind refreshed, and I had a chance to renew my ties with my friends in America. The Board arranged for me to do some deputation work in various towns and cities. I shall never forget those happy days with my friends across the ocean.

I cannot refrain at this point from expressing my reverence and gratitude to one who was then living, but is now with the Lord. This was Pastor Herbert Hogg, of Berachah Church in Philadelphia. No one could comprehend the vast extent of his Christian activities better than the missionaries. Though he was so busy, he gave much time to me, and was so kind that I have no words to express my gratitude to him and his lovely wife. May God bless his memory in our hearts, and make us work with a like devotion.

(5) *Christian Relief Work.*—In these times of great moral and material suffering, since the last World War, it is impossible for Christians to keep their hearts and purses closed. Our church has organized a committee called "The Good Samaritan," which year after year has clothed and fed many poor families, and given them medical help. I have served as cashier and secretary. We have also helped poor students to complete their education. The people today are undernourished, and many are dying. The American-European Fellowship, and numerous other friends, have sent us packages of clothing and food, for which we are unspeakably grateful.

(6) *The Evangelization of Bulgaria.*—No one can read the New Testament without seeing that the evangelization of the world was the supreme thought of Christ. He came into the world to save it. When He saw the famishing multitudes, He had compassion on them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. He made clear that the scope of His purpose was world-wide.

Though Bulgaria has been nominally Christian ever since 864 A.D., the need for evangelization is still very great. The Bible has been a closed book for centuries, because it has been read in the Greek Orthodox Slavic language, which is not easily understood by the great mass of the people. The earliest American missionaries to Bulgaria, however, translated the Bible into the spoken language of the people.

The spiritual needs of Bulgaria today are very great. Many churches are without ministers, having only lay workers to guide them, and are in terrible financial straits. We have held meetings in many towns and villages, and have been warmly welcomed; many new believers have been won. Hundreds, even thousands of Bibles, Gospels and tracts have been distributed. Our evangelical society, which is the largest organization, unites all the Protestant denominations in the country. Last year the evangelical congress was held in the village of Hotanza, and for the first time in the history of the society, a woman was elected as general secretary. Through this new work, I am in touch with the entire Protestant movement in Bulgaria.

Before closing, I wish to pay a sincere tribute to the memory of Dr. Arno C. Gaebelin and Rev. Norman J. Smith. I knew both of them well, especially Mr. Smith, who was like a father to me, always ready to help and inspire me in my work. Through his devotion to Christ, he gave his life in spreading the Gospel throughout Europe and Palestine. May we long remember this great man, and look forward to that coming reunion where shadows never enter, and death comes no more.

In all my work I have had the most valuable assistance of my dear husband, Lubomir Nikoff, to whom I was married in 1934. He attends to all my Bulgarian correspondence, wraps packages, and distributes much Christian literature. Our little son Bojidar (which in Bulgarian means "gift of God") is now eleven years old. He is in the fifth grade, enjoys his school work, but, like all children, loves to play. He is regular in his Sunday-School attendance, and fearlessly stands up for the Gospel in school.

Pray for us, that the Lord may raise up new friends for us, that we may be supplied with the Bibles and Christian literature, the clothing and food and relief funds that we need, even with tents for our summer work. The situation in Europe is most serious, even tragic, but golden doors are still open for the spreading of Christianity.

PAULINA NIKOFF.

In the Cauldron of Russia

LIFE OF THE REV. I. S. PROKHANOFF. Seventh Installment.

The years 1911-1917 were marked by a great development of our work, and by the beginning of a new persecution. I had made an application to the Holy Synod for permission to print a pocket-size Bible, without the Apocrypha. In response, the Archbishop accused the Evangelical Christians of being heretics. I replied that if the clergy of the Greek Orthodox Church did not repent, they could not escape the judgment of God. The rapid development of the Evangelical movement in Russia greatly alarmed the clergy. I began to receive letters from our brethren in various parts of Russia, describing serious difficulties with their meetings. The winds of persecution were blowing.

But in this very period we succeeded in founding the first Russian Protestant Christian Theological School at St. Petersburg. After many difficulties and delays, I received official permission to open this school, and our joy was very great. Up to this time, we had had no schools whatever for the theological training of our preachers. I was the principal, and also taught New Testament Interpretation, Dogmatics, Apologetics, and Homiletics. There were other instructors for Church History, Church Music, etc. We began with nineteen students.

At this period I was very busy, with my preaching, business meetings of the church, editing six periodicals, writing new articles and hymns, attending to the book-store, lecturing in the Bible School, and handling a very wide correspondence. Very often I was compelled to work through the night, and the morning found me still at my study-table. Of course, I had almost no time for recreation or for change of any kind from my daily routine. Nevertheless, I felt bright, energetic and happy, and was always smiling.

When the World War of 1914 began, life in Russia changed completely. New restrictions were issued, and eventually we had to give up our Bible School, discontinue two of our periodicals, and close our meetings at St. Petersburg. I was indicted by the Law Court of St. Petersburg as the founder of the revolutionary union called "The All-Russian Evangelical Christian Union." But the government was busy with other things, and so I was not arrested at that time. Our book-store was still open, and I used to meet the brethren there. We had the sweetest fellowship in these secret meetings.

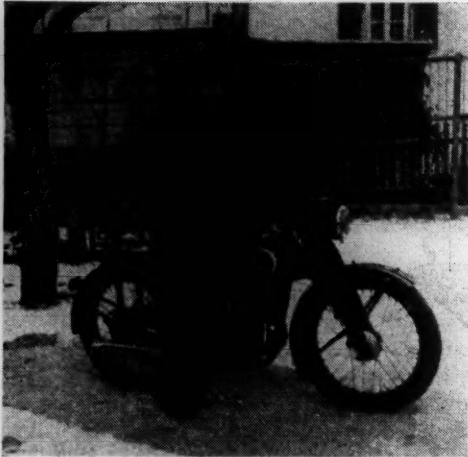
I was in St. Petersburg through all the terrible scenes of the Revolution of 1917. I saw the motor-cars and trucks with armed workmen attacking the buildings and arresting the dignitaries. Remembering the history of the French and other revolutions, I knew that there would be a period of terrorism, or else the changes would not be real and permanent.

We took as our slogan: "No politics; only the Gospel." Under the new regime we presently had more freedom, and I began to publish my periodicals again, and to hold the meetings. We met in large halls, to which we marched in procession through the streets, with great crowds, all singing. The Soviet Government decreed the separation of Church and State, and this deprived the Greek Catholic Church of its financial support and privileges. The Constitution provided for freedom of religious and anti-religious propaganda to every citizen. But I said to my friends: "Work, for the night is coming."

(To be continued)

A World Survey

OF OUR MISSIONS IN EUROPE, ASIA AND SOUTH AMERICA



BROTHER STETTLE "MOTORIZED"

Come with us on a tour of our missionary world. The first stop is in SWITZERLAND. Largely as a result of Brother Stettler's fine activity during his sojourn in America, we were able to send him recently the full payment for his long-desired motorcycle. This picture has just arrived, and the caption is his own. If international conditions permit, Dr. Yuk will soon be using a similar motorcycle on the danger-fraught roads of Palestine; the funds for its purchase are already in.

Brother Stettler asks prayer for the continuing needs abroad, in a letter of which our own Dr. Dowkontt remarks: "To read it is to weep. The demands seem impos-

sible; hunger is so great." Brother Stettler tells of refugee children from Christian homes in Poland, placed for three months with Christian families in Switzerland. The little ones are thin and pale on arrival, but they go home healthy and well-fed—to take up again the hard realities of life in their own land. He writes of the Gypsy Gospel Mission in Switzerland, an organization founded before 1914, which seeks to help and evangelize these wanderers.

The printing of tracts is a work which lies very close to Brother Stettler's heart. He tells of a man living in two rooms in Paris, who states that he could use 30,000 tracts a month. So far as possible, we seek to have the tracts printed in the countries where they are to be used, except that French tracts can be printed in Switzerland. To the Eastern European countries, they cannot be sent with an American imprint. This work may be greatly enlarged, if the Lord enables.

Other letters speak of missionary work among refugees in Belgium; of the progress of the Gospel in Russia; of Bible-work in Austria, and many other needs, which we shall hope to present in detail as time goes on.

But what of PALESTINE? The situation there is dark, but not hopeless. Some think that the British may not "pull out" on May 15th, and that if they stay, relative quiet may be preserved. An American friend observed wisely in a recent letter: "It seems to me that if the Jews there would only look back to their own history, they would see that they never got the land 'by their own sword'; but that always deliverance came through Jehovah. Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, in great emergencies, as well as others in lesser crises, were saved by the direct interference of the Omnipotent. If the present-day Jews, even though they reject Jesus Christ, would take the same attitude

toward God as that taken by these leaders of old, isn't it possible that they might be convicted of their sins, and so repentance might lead to Christ? The difficulties through which they are now passing are almost unbelievable; we hope the needs you see will be met."

With courage and determination, though the risks are still great, Dr. Yuk has set about the fitting up of another building to serve as clinic. He has received permission from the Senior Medical Officer in Tel Aviv to begin his work in a new location, which is officially a part of the adjacent town of Jaffa. This place is, in fact, the Hall Pniel, familiar to some of our readers already, as Dr. Yuk has held many meetings there. This region is perhaps a little less dangerous than the former one.

They are busy fitting up the place to serve as a combined clinic and meeting-hall. Partitions have to be put in, electricity and water service connected, and new equipment bought. Dr. Yuk relates that many of his patients, meeting him on the street, have asked when he was going to open a new clinic. He is at present living with friends, but is greatly in need of a room of his own, for rest after his busy days. The faithful nurses, too, who have helped him so long, must be maintained. Will you not make these needs a matter of prayer?

The Fellowship has unvaryingly sent Dr. Yuk his regular allowance from month to month, but only recently has our financial condition permitted us to make additional gifts for these new and pressing needs. There is also a certain element of risk, as mail and cable service to Palestine these days can hardly be called safe. Parcel-post service to that land has been suspended for a time. We are seeking to meet these problems through prayer and deliberation. Let us pray that our contacts may be retained unbroken.

The doctor writes us under date of February 27th: "The Hall Pniel is now so changed that you would hardly recognize it. It is no longer a hall, but a clinic. We have three rooms: one for the doctor and two for the nurses, of which one is for electrical treatments and the other is a dressings-room. There is also a corridor, in which we have our meetings on Saturdays (we have already held several meetings). We have the electricity in (there had to be special connections for the machines) and the water, and have bought some instruments. Of course this is not all; there is much that we still need. But we have decided to make a beginning, with His help, and we believe that He, who has given us grace to begin, will give us also strength to finish. It is several days since we began, and we have already had a number of patients. Many of them do not know where we are now, so we have had notices printed announcing our change of address, and have put up a sign, 'Clinic.'"

The next storm-center of our missionary world is, of course, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Before the "iron curtain" descended there, a full report of their latest activities came from Brother and Sister Lukesh. They wrote of a young nurse, braving the ridicule of her friends, kneeling down in the meeting and accepting the Lord; of a former student for the priesthood, who now takes the greatest delight in being shown how to use the Bible; of spending three hours with an inquiring soul, pointing out the Way of Life.

Another sister, Mrs. M., has spoken personally to 1600 people since last September, not merely giving out tracts or inviting them to the meetings, but testifying to the saving power of God. They have requests for Bibles and literature, constantly. A believer in Germany, to whom they were instrumental in sending a CARE package, wrote to them:

"Our faithful God will bless you a hundredfold. May I be permitted, without complaining, but with thanks, to say that for several weeks I lived on practically nothing but pears alone? After the farmers removed their produce from the fields, we were permitted, with hundreds of others, to dig in the fields for any left-over potatoes or other vegetables. Then came three weeks when no fat-allowance was given—and then came your love-gift package. One learns to thank God for every potato found; can you see, then, how one's heart is touched by all the good things in a CARE package?"

Brother Lukesh writes of "black market" prices, and the utter selfishness of those in power. He adds: "The Lord is not unmindful of our situation, but rather permits it, to encourage us to lift up our heads, for our salvation draweth nigh. Thank you for upholding us in prayer. May His joy be yours."

This letter has been followed by several weeks of silence, more dramatic, more ominous, than any words could be. We hope for further news soon. Pray for these dear ones in their difficult and dangerous post.

We pass over to FRANCE, land of the faithful ministry of our sister, Tordis Christoffersen. Here is the promised letter from her young fellow-worker, Marlise Erhardt, who has now gone back to finish her training in Switzerland. She writes:

"I came to Paris, and understood. . . . My impression of France, and especially of Paris, as I arrived in this city, was one of spiritual cold and darkness. The Lord has let me come here in a time of turmoil and distress, which has not changed my first impression, but rather deepened it. I have had the opportunity of seeing material needs—young girls who live in the house where I am staying are fainting for lack of food—but I realize that this country's most urgent need is the spiritual one. You actually feel the powers of evil around you in this sin-stricken city,—blinding crowds of poor, unhappy, destitute men and women who do not know the Saviour. Then there are all the professing Christians filling the churches; but how great is their need, as they have no life. And when I think of the believers I have met, how few there are who know the joy of constant and close fellowship with the Master and the meaning of a life consecrated wholly to His service, my heart is filled with prayer and thanksgiving.

"What a grace of the Lord to have called me here, and I praise Him for the joy and privilege of working with dear Miss Christoffersen. It is a wonderful thing to go about and sow the seed as Our Lord Himself did when He was on earth. We distribute tracts, visit people in hospitals and in their homes, telling them the good news of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Saviour. How I love this personal work, but I do realize here more than ever that man cannot do anything. If God does not move, nothing will happen. Therefore Miss Christoffersen and I spend much time in prayer, and the Lord encourages us in letting us see here and there some of His doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

Here speaks a fresh young voice, the voice of a trained and consecrated woman, mistress of three languages. Pray that God may open the way for her to return and become a permanent helper to Miss Christoffersen.

The friend with whom Miss Christoffersen has been staying writes of the little group of believers in the village of St. Péray, and of the blessings they have received through her ministry, "a true benediction."

Sister Emmy Steyrer writes from AUSTRIA of the work done in passing out the printed Word of God, especially on All Saints' Day, when many people visit the graves of their loved ones. The Lutheran Church in Vienna had chapel services all day long, and there were great crowds. Our sister stood outside, inviting the people in, and giving them literature.

During the past summer she had a blessed ministry in the mountains of Styria, her birthplace. Here amid the beauties of nature, the streams and waterfalls, the ancient churches and castles, she found work to do for the Lord. There were many people in villages and on farms to be visited. Here, in Carinthia, part of the castle is still standing where the first Bibles were printed in Austria, in the time of the Reformation. But under Archduke Ferdinand I, who came to the throne in 1521, the Counter-Reformation made Austria again a Catholic country, and the little village churches were left empty and silent.

Today the local church, in the town where Miss Steyrer was born, is served by a visiting pastor who has a large circuit to take care of. Whenever she is there, she helps these families. She visited their homes, and held Sunday services and Bible lessons. The people came gladly, and there were new converts. Then she visited the patients in a sanatorium high on the mountain, bringing literature and telling them of salvation.

The spiritual need of the people is very great. In many cases they are isolated without bus service to town, and the children are growing up without religious training. Prayers are asked for a revival in Austria.

We thought our own winter was severe, but read what Miss Steyrer wrote us in January: "Today a storm is raging all day, so that I have not gone out at all, for it is really dangerous in our bombed city. Ruins fall down, bricks fly from the damaged roofs, yes, whole houses collapse, burying the people who lived in them. There is a terrific noise going on all day, as the storm tears on the loose gutters and beats against the paper windows; it sounds just like the beating of a drum."

Letters from GERMANY tell of the work of our friend and associate, Pastor Bernhard Götze. He gives thanks for packages received, which have been shared with the needy, and sends extracts from many touching letters of gratitude, written by people to whom he has given Bibles and Testaments.

Our own letters from Germany are no less moving. A former general in the German Army writes of his gratitude for aid sent to his family, including his eighty-three-year-old mother. A mother tells of keeping Christmas with her three children, of their gratitude for the CARE package, of how eleven-year-old Werner said: "Mother, we have nothing left to wish for, God gives us all that we need." A refugee's children cried when the package was opened: "Where has this come from, and how did God know of our need, here in this remote place?" The principal of a girls' school expresses joy over the receipt of a clothing-package—"Was it really meant for us?" A mother says: "You will certainly take us for ungrateful people . . . my husband spent twelve years in the concentration camp at Dachau . . . we have twins, two sweet little girls. They give us so much joy that we can endure much hardship, and even forget our hunger." A recent Berlin letter in the New York Herald-Tribune speaks of the whole German nation as "a hungry people, gravely diseased" by chronic undernourishment and tuberculosis.

Pray for our brother in POLAND, Rev. Alfred Kurzawa, who lost his dearly loved wife a short time before Christmas. He heads a theological seminary at Malbork, the first seminary of its kind established in Poland since the last war. Another Polish brother, Rev. Jozef Mrozek writes: "In our country there is much to do, but there are few workers. We need men who can sacrifice all their time to the Lord. Everywhere one sees results of the work, and God's glory multiplies. We had a great conference at Whitsuntide, with more than a thousand believers present. We had an open-air meeting in the mountains, at a place where, in old times, the persecuted Christians met together for prayer and the Lord's Supper. Today a round table of stone, and a cup engraved on a rock, can still be seen there."

Our brother, Rev. John Kovalchuk, reports from ARGENTINA: "The Lord in His mercy keeps us and gives us opportunities to testify here in various places and by various means. Last Sunday we had a fine special meeting in Berisso. There was a choir from Buenos Aires. We sang, gave our message, and the orchestra of the local church played. The hall was filled with people, and the Lord blessed us abundantly. During the summer we have had many opportunities for evangelization among all the Slavonic peoples here.

"Lately we have been receiving a great many letters from believers in various lands. From everywhere there are sighs and laments. This past week we again received several letters from France, where we once labored among the Russian fugitives. The hunger is terrible. One sister, a widow, writes that her husband, having lost his job and having no means, died of hunger. She herself is so exhausted, that she can barely drag out her existence. The same things are written by all the others."

The Bible Society Record (organ of the American Bible Society) for March, 1948, gives the following figures on the need of Scriptures in various lands (reproduced by permission): Bulgarian, 950,000 volumes; Czech and Slovakian, 45,000; French, 110,000; German, 1,875,000; Greek, 200,000; Hungarian, 60,000; Indian, 175,000; Indonesian, 280,000; Japanese, 1,725,000; Korean, 450,000; Philippine, 104,000; Rumanian, 30,000; Russian, 1,712,000; Serbian (Yugoslavia), 130,000; Ukrainian, 10,000—a total of 7,856,000.

How swift our round-the-world trip has been! Perhaps we travelled by motorcycle, after all; or rather, by the power of thought and prayer. Now we are back in America, and a brother writes us: "I wonder what God thinks of all the preparations that are made for Easter. Are we all interested in new outfits for the Easter parade, or are we concerned as Mary was on that first Easter Sunday, the day of Resurrection? She did not have a new outfit when she went to the tomb; she was looking for her Lord."

And a sister says: "Thank you for the information concerning your society. We feel it is a worthy cause, and therefore we are sending another gift. The Lord has made it possible by giving up meals, as well as by prayer and fasting." Another writes: "I want you, in this time of such great need in so many places, to put my offering where it will do the most for our Lord. It seems so little in so great a need; but the acorn is small, yet the tree is stately and strong, and the hidden springs in the mountainside feed many streams in the valley."

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS—February and March, 1948
(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depository for all gifts.)

32137---\$25.00	32175---\$10.00	32211----\$1.00	32249----\$5.00
32138-----5.00	32176-----5.00	32212-----5.00	32250-----5.50
32139-----1.00	32177-----5.00	32213-----10.00	32251-----2.00
32140-----1.00	32178-----2.00	32214-----50.00	32252-----10.00
32141-----2.00	32179-----20.00	32215-----1.00	32253-----20.00
32142-----5.00	32180-----18.00	32216-----30.00	32254-----5.00
32143-----2.00	32181-----21.00	32217-----25.00	32255-----17.00
32144-----5.00	32182-----10.00	32218-----1.00	32256-----50.00
32145-----3.00	32183-----43.00	32219-----10.00	32257-----6.00
32146-----50.00	32184-----50.00	32220-----5.00	32258-----13.50
32147-----10.00	32185-----100.00	32221-----200.00	32259-----75.00
32148-----50.00	32186-----5.00	32222-----20.00	32260-----150.00
32149-----25.00	32187-----5.00	32223-----20	32261-----13.13
32150-----1.50	32188-----5.00	32224-----2.00	32262-----10.00
32151-----75.00	32189-----10.00	32225-----4.00	32263-----100.00
32152-----49.50	32190-----15.00	32226-----3.00	32264-----1.00
32153-----25.00	32191-----1.00	32227-----3.00	32265-----2.00
32154-----15.00	32192-----10.00	32228-----2.00	32266-----10.00
32155-----5.00	32193-----2.00	32229-----15.00	32267-----18.00
32156-----218.00	32194-----1.90	32230-----30.00	32268-----15.00
32157-----10.00	32195-----75.00	32231-----100.00	32269-----6.00
32158-----5.00	32196-----14.63	32232-----15.00	32270-----1.00
32159-----5.00	32197-----52.50	32233-----10.00	32271-----1.00
32160-----25.00	32198-----25.00	32234-----2.00	32272-----100.00
32161-----50.00	32199-----5.00	32235-----10.00	32273-----2.00
32162-----10.00	32200-----5.00	32236-----10.00	32274-----3.00
32163-----1.00	32201-----25.00	32237-----20.00	32275-----38.00
32164-----10.00	32202-----5.00	32238-----10.00	32276-----75.00
32165-----25.00	32203-----3.00	32239-----10.00	32277-----1.00
32166-----2.50	32204-----2.00	32240-----75.00	32278-----5.80
32167-----10.00	32205-----10.00	32241-----3.00	32279-----25.00
32168-----5.00	32206-----1.00	32242-----20.00	32280-----40.00
32169-----25.00	32207-----25.00	32243-----1.00	32281-----5.00
32170-----15.00		32244-----10.00	32282-----10.00
32171-----18.00	March begins	32245-----20.00	32283-----10.00
32172-----75.00	32208-----4.00	32246-----50.00	32284-----5.00
32173-----1.00	32209-----5.00	32247-----50.00	32285-----5.00
32174-----5.00	32210-----35.00	32248-----1.00	

THE WINTER IS OVER, but the need for clothing, as well as for food, in poverty-stricken Europe goes on and on. Urgent appeals reach us daily for shoes, stockings, dresses, suits, children's clothes, bedding, and many other articles. Donations may be sent to Rev. Charles Cline, American-European Fellowship, 168 William Street, New York 7, N. Y. This is our clothing depot, from which large shipments go out every month. If you wish, you may designate your gift for some particular missionary; otherwise, we send to all the needy ones, in turn.

DO YOU REMEMBER the list of a hundred needy Christian families, given us last fall by Brother Stettler when he was in this country? We offered them for "adoption"—that is, we asked for friends who would take a name and pledge themselves to send shipments of food and clothing. To date, only nineteen of these families have been adopted. Who will care for the other eighty-one? To any friend who adopts one, we will give a free subscription to THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD. If you are already a subscriber, we will send a subscription, in your honor, to a friend of yours whom you will designate.